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February 29, 2000

Andrea G. Reister

(202) 383-7438

Box Patent Application



Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Non-Provisional Utility Patent Application

Appl. No.: Not yet assigned; Filed: February 29, 2000

For: Electronic Commerce Transactions Within a Marketing

System That May Contain a Membership Buying Opportunity

Inventors: Daniel A. ARGANBRIGHT; Dave BAMBOROUGH;

Randy S. BANCINO; James G. BLODGETT; Bruce H. CARLSON; William DANGL; William HAZARD, Robin HORDER-KOOP; Jim HUNKING; Aaron M. KAMPHUIS;

Gregory J. LANG; Gary A. MAHIEU; Kathryn E. MCCORMICK; Kenneth J. MCDONALD; John P. PARKER; Andrew J. POPP; Kelly K. SAVAGE; Steven R. VISSER; and Claire ZEVALKINK

Our Ref:

00368.0029.US01

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

- 1. Utility Patent Application Transmittal (Form PTO/SB/05);
- 2. Form PTO-1082 (in duplicate);
- 3. U.S. Utility Patent Application entitled:

Electronic Commerce Transactions Within a Marketing System That May Contain a Membership Buying Opportunity

and naming as inventors:

Daniel A. ARGANBRIGHT; Dave BAMBOROUGH; Randy S. BANCINO; James G. BLODGETT, Bruce H. CARLSON; William DANGL; William HAZARD, Robin HORDER-KOOP; Jim HUNKING,; Aaron M. KAMPHUIS, Gregory J. LANG, Gary A. MAHIEU, Kathryn E. MCCORMICK; Kenneth J. MCDONALD; John P. PARKER; Andrew J. POPP; Kelly K. SAVAGE; Steven R. VISSER; and Claire ZEVALKINK



Assistant Commissioner for Patents February 29, 2000 Page 2

the application consisting of:

- a. A specification containing:
  - (i) 147 pages of description prior to the claims;
  - (ii) 50 pages of claims (156 claims);
  - (iii) a one (1) page abstract;
- b. 44 sheets of drawings: (Figures 1-3, 4a-4f, 5-7, 8a-8c, 9-11, 12a-12h, 13a-13e, 14a-14e, and 15-27);
- c. Three originals of executed combined Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application (27 total pages);
- 4. Recordation Form Cover Sheet (2 pages);
- 5. Three originals of executed Assignment documents to Quixtar Investments, Inc., recordation of which is hereby respectfully requested (9 total pages);
- 6. Our check No. 324358 for \$4114.00 to cover:
  - \$ 690.00 Filing fee for patent application;
  - \$ 40.00 Assignment recordation fee(s); and
  - \$3,384.00 Fee for excess claims; and
- 7. Two (2) return postcards.

It is respectfully requested that, of the two attached postcards, one be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier, and the other, prepaid postcard, be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible.

The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to provisional application serial no. 60/122,385, filed March 2, 1999, titled "Electronic Commerce Transactions Within a Marketing System That May Contain a Membership Buying Opportunity," and provisional application serial no. 60/126,493, filed March 25, 1999, titled "Method for Marketing and Selling That May Contain a Membership Buying Opportunity," the entirety of each of which is incorporated herein by reference.



Assistant Commissioner for Patents February 29; 2000 Page 3

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea G. Reister (Reg. No. 36,253)

Enclosures

| UTILITY   |  |                          | Attorney Docket No. 00368.0029.US01 |                 |   |             |   |          |  |  |
|---|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------|---|----------|--|--|
| PATENT APPLICATION  |  |                          | First Named Inventor or Appli       |                 |   | pplication  | ation Identifier ARGANBRIGHT              |          |  |  |
| TRANSMITTAL (Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(h))   |  |                          | Title                               |                 | lectronic Commerce Transactions Within A Marketin hat May Contain a Membership Buying Opportunity |             |   |          |  |  |
|   |  |                          | Express                             | Mail Label      | No.   |             |   |          |  |  |
| A   | PPLICATION ELEME   | NTS                      |                                     |                 |   |             | Assistant (                               | omm      | issioner for Patents   |  |
| See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents   |  |                          |                                     | A               | DDRI  | ESS TO:     |   |          | ication  |  |
|   | nsmittal Form (Form PTC<br>original and a duplicate for fo   |                          |                                     | 6.              |   | Microfi     | che Compute                               | r Prog   | gram (Appendix)  |  |
| 2. Specifica (preferred   | ation<br>arrangement set forth below)  | [Total Pages             | 198 ]                               | 7.              |   |             | nd/or Amino A<br>all necessary)           | Acid S   | Sequence Submission  |  |
|   | tive title of the Invention<br>References to Related App   | lications                |                                     |                 | a.  | c           | Computer Readable Copy                    |          |  |  |
|   | ent Regarding Fed sponsonce to Microfiche Append   |                          |                                     |                 | b.  | Pa          | aper Copy (id                             | lentica  | il to computer copy)   |  |
| - Backgr  | ound of the Invention ummary of the Invention  |                          |                                     |                 | c.  |             | tatement verif<br>opies                   | fying i  | identity of above  |  |
| - Brief D   | escription of the Drawing  | S (if filed)             |                                     | AC              | COMI  | PANYIN      | G APPLICA                                 | OITA     | N PARTS  |  |
| - Detaile   | d Description  |                          |                                     | 8.              | $\boxtimes$   | Assignn     | gnment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) |          |  |  |
| Claime  | et of the Disclosure   |                          |                                     | 9.              |   | 37 CFR      | 3.73(b) Staten<br>ere is an assigne       | nent     | Power of Attorney  |  |
| 3. Drawing  | (s) (35 USC 113)   | [Total Sheets            | 44 ]                                | 10.             |   |             | -   |          | nent (if applicable)   |  |
| - Abstraction - |  | [Total Pages             |                                     | 11.             |   | Informa     | ation Disclosu<br>ent (IDS)/PTO-          | ure      | Copies of IDS Citations  |  |
| a. 🕅 Nev  | vly executed (original or o  | copy)                    |                                     | 12.             | $\Box$  |             | nary Amendn                               |          | Citations  |  |
| 📲 b.   Co   | opy from a prior application of the continuation of the continuati | on (37 CFR 1.63(d))      |                                     | 13.             | $\boxtimes$   | Return      | ·   | card (N  | MPEP 503) (Two)  |  |
| i. □  | [Note Box 5 both DELETION OF INVEN   | elow]                    |                                     | 14.             |   | *Small      | _   |          | Statement filed in   |  |
| - 1 sprint Street   | Signed statement attached de in the prior application, see 3 1.33(b).  | leting inventor(s) named |                                     | :               | Ш   | Stateme     |   |          | prior application,<br>Status still proper<br>and desired                         |  |
| design design   |  |                          |                                     | 15.             |   |             | ed Copy of Pri<br>n priority is clai      |          |  |  |
| 5. Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked) The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which   |  |                          |                                     | 16.             |   | Other       |   | ,        |  |  |
|   |  |                          |                                     | <u> </u>        |   |             |   |          |  |  |
| of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying applicand is hereby incorporated by reference therein.   |  |                          |                                     | FEES,           | A SMAL  | L ENTITY ST | TATEMENT IS REQ                           | QUIRED ( | ED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY<br>37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF<br>DN (37 C.F.R. § 1.28). |  |
| 17. If a CONTIN   | UING APPLICATION,  | check appropriate bo.    | x and sup                           | ply the req     | uisite  | informati   | ion:                                      |          |  |  |
| Continuati  | Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No:  |                          |                                     |                 |   |             |   |          |  |  |
|   | Prior Applica  | ation Information: Exa   | aminer:                             |                 | Grou  | ıp/Art Ur   | nit:                                      |          |  |  |
|   |  | 18. CORRESP              | ONDEN                               | CE ADDR         | ESS   |             |   |          |  |  |
|   |  |                          |                                     |                 |   |             |   |          |  |  |
| Customer Number or Bar Code Label  (Insert Customer No. or Att 2223 or el here)   |  |                          |                                     |                 |   |             |   |          |  |  |
| Andrea G. Reister  NAME  HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE, LLP   |  |                          |                                     |                 |   |             |   |          |  |  |
|   |  |                          |                                     |                 |   |             |   |          |  |  |
| Box No. 34  ADDRESS 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  |  |                          |                                     |                 |   |             |   |          |  |  |
| CITY  | Washington Washington  | STATE                    | TDC                                 |                 |   | 7.          | IP CODE                                   |          | 20004-2402   |  |
| COUNTRY   | US   | TELEPHONE                |                                     | 83-0800         |   |             | AX  |          | 202-383-7195   |  |
| Name (Print/Type)   | Andrea G. Reister  | 11                       | Registra                            | tion No. (Attor | ney/Age   | nt) 30      | 6,253                                     |          |  |  |
| Signature   | andreas  | X Keist                  |                                     |                 |   |             | Date February 29, 2000                    |          |  |  |
|   |  |                          |                                     |                 |   |             |   |          |  |  |

## HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE, LZ Box No. 34

## 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004-2402 (202) 783-0800

Attorney Docket No. 00368.0029.US01

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, D.C. 20231

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Date <u>February 29, 2000</u>

| Sir:   |   |   |                          |      |                 |               |        |                           |             |  |
|--|---|---|--------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------|--------|---------------------------|-------------|--|
| Transmi<br>Inventor<br>For:                        | rs: ARG   | or filing is the pat<br>ANBRIGHT <i>et al</i><br>nmerce Transacti | <i>!</i> .               |      | g System That I | May Contain a | ı Memb | ership Buying             | Opportunity |  |
| Enclose <u>xx</u> <u>xx</u>                        | 44 sheets of in   | formal drawings.<br>t of the invention                            | to <u>Quixtar Invest</u> | ment | ts, Inc.        |               |        |                           |             |  |
| <u>xx</u><br>-<br>-<br>-<br><u>xx</u><br>The filin | A certified copy of a application.  An associate power of attorney.  A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27.  Executed Power of Attorney from Assignee  |   |                          |      |                 |               |        |                           |             |  |
|  |   | (Col. 1)  | (Col. 2)                 |      | SMALL ENTITY    |               |        | OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY |             |  |
| FOR  |   | NO. FILED   | NO. EXTRA                |      | RATE            | FEE           | OR     | RATE                      | FEE         |  |
| BASIC  | FEE   |   |                          |      |                 | \$ 345.00     | OR     |                           | \$ 690.00   |  |
| TOTAL  | . CLAIMS  | 156 - 20 =  | * 136                    |      | x 9 =           |               | OR     | 136 x 18 =                | 2448.00     |  |
| INDEP.   | CLAIMS  | 15 -3 =   | * 12                     |      | x 39 =          |               | OR     | 12 x 78 =                 | 936.00      |  |
| □ MU   | ILTIPLE DEPEND  | ENT CLAIM PRESE   | NTED                     |      | + 130 =         |               | OR     | + 260 =                   |             |  |
| *If the o  | difference in Col. 1  | is less than zero, enter  | "0" in Col. 2            |      | TOTAL           |               | OR     | TOTAL                     | \$4074.00   |  |
| _  | Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>08-3038</u> in the amount of \$ A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.   |   |                          |      |                 |               |        |                           |             |  |
| xx   | A check in the amount of \$4114.00 to cover the basic filing, additional claims and assignment recordation fees is enclosed.  |   |                          |      |                 |               |        |                           |             |  |
| <u>xx</u>  | The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>08-3038</u> referencing docket number <u>00368.0029.US01</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached. |   |                          |      |                 |               |        |                           |             |  |
|  | <ul> <li><u>xx</u> Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.</li> <li><u>xx</u> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.</li> </ul>   |   |                          |      |                 |               |        |                           |             |  |
| -  | The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees during the pendency of this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>08-3038</u> referencing docket number *. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.                  |   |                          |      |                 |               |        |                           |             |  |
|  | Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17  The issue fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b).  Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for presentation of extra claims.   |   |                          |      |                 |               |        |                           |             |  |